

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 7, 2005

Chairman Ralph Regula
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member David Obey
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Arlen Specter
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Tom Harkin
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
731 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Regula, Ranking Member Obey, Chairman Specter and Ranking Member Harkin:

As the Conference Committee considers its priorities for the fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we encourage you to provide \$190 million in funding for the Math and Science Partnership program at the Department of Education as set in the House version of this bill.

The Math and Science Partnership program is essential for ensuring that America's math and science teachers have the professional development training needed to successfully teach our future workforce. We are very grateful that Congress approved \$180 million for the ED Math and Science Partnership program in fiscal year 2005. Providing \$190 million for ED will help ensure that we reach the full funding goal of \$450 million by the 2007-2008 school year.

For more than a decade, we have seen disturbing trends in U.S. student performance on basic math and science tests. The recent Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and Trends in International Math and Science Study (TIMSS) have highlighted the shortcomings of U.S. math and science education, as compared to other developed countries. This should be of particular concern when we consider the large educational and workforce development investments made by China, India and Russia.

In addition, several prominent reports recently have sounded the alarm that our math and science education system is in need of drastic improvement in order to maintain our nation's economic competitiveness and national security. For example, in *Tapping America's Potential: The Education for Innovation Initiative*, the Business Roundtable, National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber and 12 other leading organizations recommend that Congress "Support cost-effective professional development and other technical assistance to fill gaps in teachers' content knowledge and prepare them to teach the content effectively" and cite the Math and Science Partnerships programs as a solution.

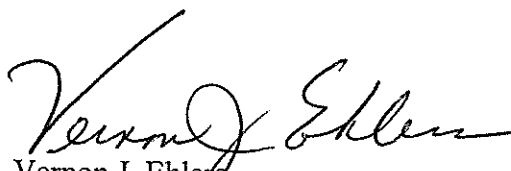
Furthermore, beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires schools to test students in science, in addition to the math and reading testing already required. It is critical that our teachers be prepared to teach math and science effectively so that students are equipped with the knowledge needed to pass rigorous state tests, and to obtain good jobs in the future.

Also, we believe it is equally important that the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Math and Science Partnerships be fully funded, as they provide a proving ground for competitively selected, innovative ideas that can then receive broader application through the ED's program, and a separate letter has already been sent to Chairman Wolf requesting funding sufficient funding for the NSF program.

The Math and Science Partnerships provide necessary professional development, which strengthens the teachers' ability to effectively teach math and science and strengthens our students' math and science skills. We respectfully request that you continue to strengthen our math and science education system by providing sufficient funds to Math and Science Partnership programs.

Please remember: jobs of the future will require an understanding of the basic principles and concepts of math and science. Give our kids a chance – give them teachers who are trained to teach math and science properly and understandably.

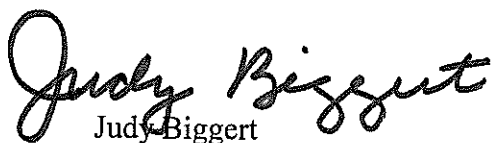
Sincerely,



Vernon J. Ehlers
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, STEM Education Caucus



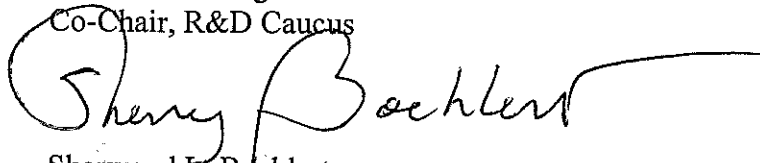
Mark Udall
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, STEM Education Caucus



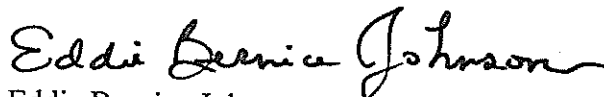
Judy Biggert
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, R&D Caucus



Rush Holt
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, R&D Caucus



Sherwood L. Boehlert
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



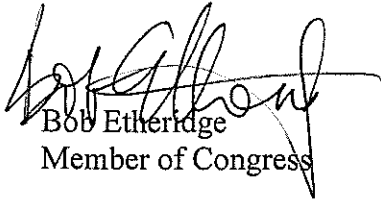
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



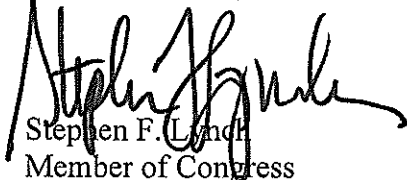
Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress



Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



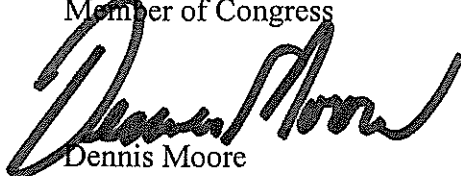
David Scott
Member of Congress



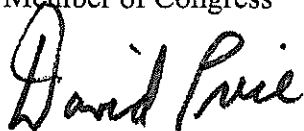
Earl Blumenauer
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Jim McDermott
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Dennis Moore
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David E. Price
Member of Congress



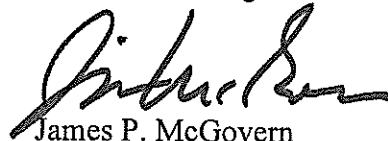
Sherrod Brown
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Harold E. Ford
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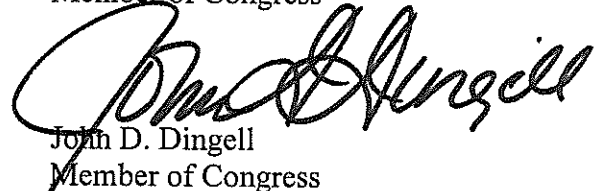
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Tom Price
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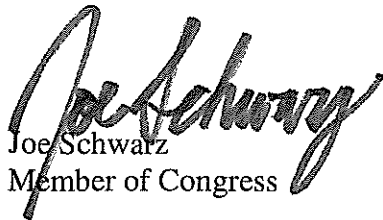
Major R. Owens
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Member of Congress

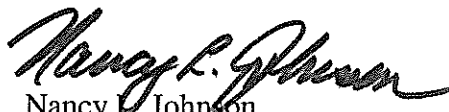
Bob Inglis
Bob Inglis
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Danny K. Davis
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Member of Congress

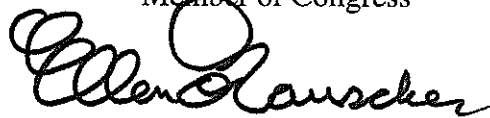
Adam Smith
Adam Smith
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Jerry F. Costello
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Member of Congress

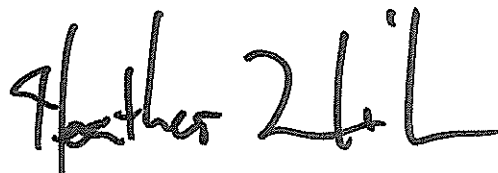

Joe Schwarz
Member of Congress


Nancy L. Johnson
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Jim Costa
Member of Congress

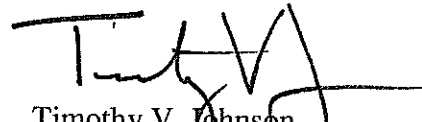

Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress

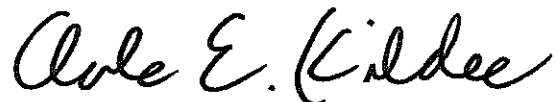

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

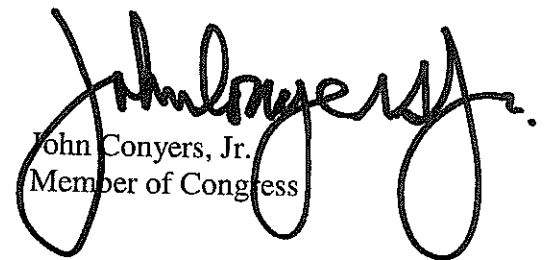

Heather A. Wilson
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress


Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress


Dale Kildee
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Alphabetical List of Signers
FY06 Math and Science Partnership Letter to LHHS Conferees

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
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| 2. Ackerman | 45. T. Price |
| 3. Baldwin | 46. Reyes |
| 4. Biggert | 47. T. Ryan |
| 5. Blumenauer | 48. Schwarz |
| 6. Boehlert | 49. D. Scott |
| 7. Boswell | 50. A. Smith |
| 8. Boustany | 51. Snyder |
| 9. S. Brown | 52. Tauscher |
| 10. Calvert | 53. M. Udall |
| 11. Capito | 54. Van Hollen |
| 12. Carnahan | 55. H. Wilson |
| 13. Conyers | |
| 14. Costa | |
| 15. Costello | |
| 16. D. Davis | |
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| 18. Ehlers | |
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| 20. Ford | |
| 21. Grijalva | |
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| 25. Inglis | |
| 26. E.B. Johnson | |
| 27. N. Johnson | |
| 28. T. Johnson | |
| 29. Kildee | |
| 30. Kind | |
| 31. Levin | |
| 32. Lipinski | |
| 33. Lynch | |
| 34. McCarthy | |
| 35. McCollum | |
| 36. McDermott | |
| 37. McGovern | |
| 38. McIntyre | |
| 39. Menendez | |
| 40. B. Miller | |
| 41. D. Moore | |
| 42. Owens | |
| 43. Platts | |